GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3345
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2002
FAKE DRUGS
SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the business of fake drugs is increasing in the country particularly in Delhi since the past few years;

(b) if so, whether laxity in various laws, slow litigation and light punishment are the main causes of increase in the fake drugs businesses;

(c) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps to strengthen various laws for deterrant punishment to the manufacturers and sellers of fake drugs in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D.SWAMI)

(a) to (d): Under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1948 and rules thereunder, the responsibility for regulating manufacture and sale of drugs including monitoring their quality is vested with the State Governments. As per the feedback given by the Drugs Control Administration, NCT of Delhi, Delhi is having one of the biggest markets of drugs in the country and as such Delhi could be a transit point of transaction of drugs including drugs of questionable quality.

Section 17-B of Drugs and Cosmetics Act defines spurious drug as a medicine manufactured under a name which belongs to another or if it is an imitation or substitute, wholly or partly of another drug or if the label of container bears the name of fictitious or non existent firm. Section 27 of the said Act prescribes penal provision for manufacture and sale of spurious drugs. Sale of spurious drugs, if detected is punishable with life imprisonment and with fine which shall not be less than Rs. 10,000/-. Hence there are adequate provisions in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act to tackle the problem of spurious drugs.